(b) whether statutory warning on the lines of cigarette is proposed to be printed on brand names of bidis bundles, zarda, gutka and pan masala. If so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that last year's conference of State Health Ministers agreed upon to high light the risk of cancer involved in chewing of tobacco and tobacco related products, through official media advertisements in their respective States; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of persons died annually on this account in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) No-conference of State Health Ministers was held in 1991. However, in the National Conference on Tobacco or Health held in New Delhi in July, 1991 the risks of Cancer involved in chewing of tobacco and tobacco related products were high-lighted.

(d) The exact number of deaths occuring due to diseases casued by tobacco in the country is not known. However, it has been estimated that in India one million persons die every year due to tobacco related diseases viz. cancers of upper elimentary and respiratory tract; cardiovascular diseases and chronic obstructive lung diseases.

Testing of Blood Samples

2036. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of blood samples tested at the N.D.M.C. hospital of Moti Bagh, New Delhi, have shown to be H.I.V. positive; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Out of 180 blood samples screened at N.D.M.C Hospital, Moti Bagh, only 9 were found to be HIV positive. These 9 positive HIV cases were Thallassemic cases who received blood transfusion from multiple donors from commercial as well as some Government Blood Banks.

(b) The blood which is now being supplied for transfusion is regularly tested for HIV. The 9 HIV positive (Thallassemic patients) are being provided health education and information for coping with their problems.

Use of Neem for Family Planning

2037. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Report of the U.S. National Research Council according to which American research scientists have discovered that all the therapeutic virtues attributed by the Indian folklore to the Neem tree are true and that it may have more uses in areas like birth control;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to exploit the virtues of the Neem and its components chemically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Research on the use of Neem Oil as contraceptive is already in progress and two products for Birth Control have been developed. Toxicology Studies are also in progress which will be followed by Safety and efficacy Studies.